

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the document listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. Copies of the document, together with English Abstract, is enclosed.

The Japanese document was cited in an Office Action issued on January 27, 2003 in a counterpart Japanese application. A copy of that Office Action is enclosed for the Examiner's convenience.

STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)

Each item of information in this information disclosure statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing date of this Statement.

Consideration of the cited information and return of an initialed copy of the enclosed PTO-1449 form, indicating such consideration, are requested.

Early and favorable consideration hereof is earnestly solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian L. Klock", is written over a horizontal line.

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FORM PTO 1449 (modified)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICELIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S)
(Use several sheets if necessary)Date Submitted to PTO: **April 4, 2003**ATTY DOCKET NO.
02355.012117APPLICATION NO.
09/818,606APPLICANT
Takaai ENDO, ET AL.FILING DATE
March 28, 2001GROUP
2613

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE

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APR 08 2003

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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES/NO/ OR ABSTRACT
11-242737	09/07/99	Japan			Abstract

OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered.

Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

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